(b) The total number of HPCL dealerships earmarked under Social Objective Scheme in Bihar State since the introduction of marketing plans in 1980-81 up to 1986-87 are as under :—

Retail Outlets	—	43
SKO/LDO dealerships	—	3
LPG	—	11

(c) One such Retail Outlet dealership has been terminated by HPCL in August, 1986 as the dealer had violated the terms and conditions of the dealership agreement.

Pilferage of LPG from filled cylinders

2545. SHRI SAGAR RAYKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the Pilferage of LPG from filled cylinders, by the transporters and distributors appointed by the I.O.C.;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the concerned Oil Companies against the defaulters; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to take to prevent this pilferage and loss to consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In case a transporter delivers empty or grossly under weight cylinders to the distributor and there is an inference of pilfrage, the cost of the product is debited to him. However, if the pilferage is establish as having been done by the transporter/distributor, action ranging from forefeiture of security deposit to termination of contract/distributorship and blacklisting is taken. Consumers who receive under weight refils are suitably compensated.

Shortage of filed up LPG cylinders

2546. SHRI SAGAR RAYKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great shortage of filled up LPG cylinders in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to increase the bottling capacity of the existing L.P.G. bottling plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) While there is no general shortage of LPG refills in the country, occasional backlogs in supply of LPG refils develop at some locations due to factors such as IR problems, operational and transport bottlenecks product availability constraints etc.

(b) Under the LPG Phase III project, additional capacity of 0.7 million MTPA is being added by setting up of new bottling plants and expansion of existing ones.

Complaint against M/s Kiran Gas Agency, Khan Market, New Delhi

2547. SHRI K. GOPALAN :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s. Kiran Gas Agency, Khan Market, New Delhi is not prompt on delivering gas to its customers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to keep a watch on this agency and also to take suitable action ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) While operational constraints had led to occasional backlogs,